

## **Security Message for U.S. citizens: Planned Demonstrations**

**January 16, 2013**

The U.S. Embassy alerts U.S. Citizens that the Coordination of the Democratic Opposition (COD) has planned a protest beginning at 16:30 today at the Ibn Abbass Mosque near the Palace of Justice. The demonstration will protest against the French military intervention in Mali.

U.S. citizens are urged to avoid the area around the mosque and the Palace of Justice during the protest. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Mauritania enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov/step>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, (including the Travel Warning for Mauritania), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Mauritania at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_4965.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html). For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook as well, or you can download our free Smart Traveler App, available through iTunes and the Android marketplace, to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott is located between the Presidency building and the Spanish Embassy on Rue Abdallaye and is open Sunday-Thursday from 8:00-5:00. The phone number is 45 25 26 60. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is 36 62 81 63. In the event of an emergency that interrupts mobile phone (SMS) or Internet communication in Mauritania, U.S. citizens may call the Embassy's dedicated Consular emergency recording at 45 25 37 07 to receive the most up-to-date instructions.